

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FOR IOR AND IEA, DEPT FOR EAP.

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SCMP EDITORIAL - ISRAELIS RAID GUERILLA BASES IN LEBANON

FOLLOWING IS SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST EDITORIAL:

QUOTE

ISRAELIS RAID GUERILLA BASES IN LEBANON

ISRAELI COMMANDOS RAIDED A SUSPECTED TERRORIST BASE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TODAY IN THE SECOND DAY OF RETALIATORY STRIKES FOR A GUERILLA ATTACK ON THE GALILEE TOWN OF MAALOT. LEBANON REPORTED TURNING BACK ISRAELI PLANES NEAR BEIRUT.

AN ARMY SPOKESMAN IN TEL AVIV SAID THE COMMANDOS CROSSED THE ISRAELI BORDER AND BLEW UP A HOUSE USED BY PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS IN THE LEBANESE FRONTIER TOWN OF MAJDIA. THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES.

"A SEARCH OF THE BUILDING PRIOR TO ITS DETONATION SHOWED THE PRESENCE

OF TERRORISTS," THE MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID.

ISRAELI SPOKESMAN SAID THE RAID INSIDE LEBANON TODAY CAME AFTER

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ARAB GUERILLAS FIRED MORTAR SHELLS FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY AT THE TOW

N
OF METULLA, ISRAEL'S NORTHERNMOST SETTLEMENT, HE REPORTED NO CASUALTI
ES
IN THE SHELLING.

ARAB GUERRILLAS REACTED TO THE LATEST RAIDS BY THREATENING REVENGE.
"ISRAEL MUST EXPECT A STRONG REPRISAL OF THE SAME PROPORTION AND LEVE
L
OF THE BEASTLY CRIME IT HAS COMMITTED," SAID A LEADER OF THE AL-SAIQA
GUERRILLA GROUP.

LEBANESE MILITARY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN BEIRUT SAID ISRAELI PLANES
PENETRATED LEBANESE AIR SPACE, BUT FLEW BACK INTO ISRAELI TERRITORY W
HEN
LEBANESE PLANES ROSE TO CHALLENGE THEM.

WITNESSES SAID THE PLANES FLEW NEAR BEIRUT AND LEBANESE GROUND
FORCES COUNTERED WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.

LEBANESE COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAID THE ARMED FORCES FOUGHT OFF AN ISRA
ELI
PATROL THAT CROSSED INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON ABOUT 12 MILES FROM THE ARE
A
WHERE THE ISRAELIS REPORTED THEIR ATTACK. LEBANON MADE NO MENTION OF
A
RAID ON MAJDIA.

THE LEBANESE CABINET MET IN RESTRICTED SESSION TODAY TO DISCUSS TH
E
ISRAELI AIR STRIKES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE HEAVIEST RAIDS IN THE CO
UNTRY
SINCE THE OCTOBER 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR.

THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER, MR TAKIEDDIN SOLH, ANNOUNCED AFTER TH
E
SESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO LODGE A COMPLAI
NT
WITH THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL OVER THE ISRAELI RAIDS.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCUSED ISRAEL OF CARRYING OUT A "PREMEDITATED
MASSACRE" ON LEBANON.

HE SAID THE EXACT CASUALTY FIGURES WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT LIST
ED
TOTAL LOSSES IN PREVIOUS ISRAELI ATTACKS SINCE 1967 AS 168 KILLED, 45
7
INJURED AND 55 KIDNAPPED.

IN THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP AT NABATIEH ALONE - THE HARDEST HI
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TARGET - 25 WERE KILLED YESTERDAY AND 100 WERE WOUNDED, HE SAID.
ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, FIGHTING WENT ON DURING THE NIGHT ON MOUNT
HERMON AND LATER EXTENDED TO OTHER SECTORS OF THE FRONT, ACCORDING TO
A
SYRIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN DAMASCUS.

HE SAID SYRIAN ARTILLERY, ROCKETS AND OTHER WEAPONS WERE
BEING USED IN THE FIGHTING. ISRAELI CONCENTRATIONS AND POSITIONS WER

E

BEING SHELLED.

IN CAIRO, EGYPT WARNED OF A NEW OUTBREAK OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

,

SENDING TENSIONS IN THE REGION UP ANOTHER NOTCH.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR ISMAIL FAHMI, SAID EGYPT "WILL NOT STAND WITH ARMS FOLDED" IN THE WAKE OF ISRAEL'S "TREACHEROUS" REPRISAL RAID

S

INTO LEBANON.

IN JERUSALE, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, DR HENRY KISSINGER, MET THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER, MRS GOLDA MEIR, TODAY TO SUGGEST NEW APPROACHES

TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT AT THE SAME TIME CRITICIZED ISRAELI

AIR RAIDS INTO LEBANON.

DR. KISSINGER, WITH ONLY A FEW HOURS SLEEP AFTER HIS RETURN FROM SYRIA, WENT INTO A PRIVATE MEETING WITH MRS MEIR SAYING HE HAD NEW APPROACHES TO DISCUSS FOR SEPARATING ISRAELI AND SYRIAN TROOPS ON THE EMBATTLED GOLAN HEIGHTS.

SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING BEGAN, DR KISSINGER'S SPOKESMAN ISSUED A STATEMENT FOR HIM THAT CRITICIZED THE ISRAELI AIR RAIDS.

"YESTERDAY MANY LIVES WERE LOST AS A RESULT OF AIR ATTACKS BY ISRAELI AIR FORCES IN LEBANON IN RETALIATION FOR THE MASSACRE AT MAALOT," IT SAID. "THE UNITED STATES DEEPLY DEPLORES THE INNOCENT LOSS OF LIFE WHEREEVER IT OCCURS IN THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT."

DR KISSINGER SAID THE UNITED STATES "MUST EXPRESS ITS CONCERN THAT SUCH CYCLES OF VIOLENCE UNDERMINE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CALLS ON ALL PARTIES TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE."

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